

**Figure 13 – Rio Grande**



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**RIO GRANDE**

Photo Point RG1 – From the N Side of Proposed Area Looking SE



Photo Point RG1 – From the N Side of Proposed Area Looking S

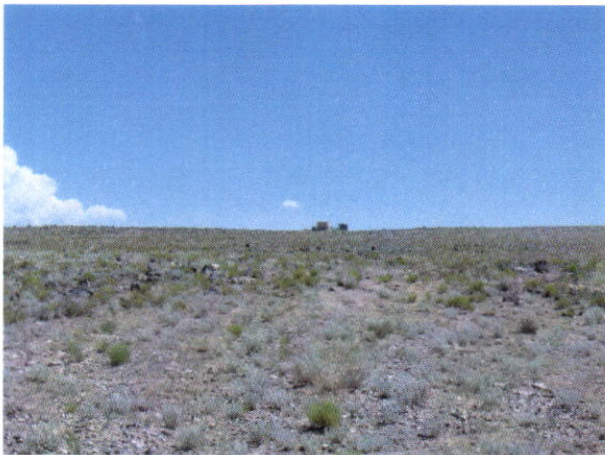


Photo Point RG2 – From the SE Side of Proposed Area Looking S



Photo Point RG3 – From the SE Side of Proposed Area Looking W

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**Form 1 – Documentation of BLM Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Findings  
from Previous Inventory on Record**

**(1) Is there existing BLM wilderness characteristics inventory information on all or part of this area?**

No \_\_\_\_\_ (Go to Form 2) Yes   X   (If yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the unique identifiers for those areas):

a) **Inventory Source:** 1980 BLM Colorado Intensive Wilderness Inventory

b) **Inventory Area Unique Identifier(s):** Twin Peaks CO-050-142

c) **Map Name(s)/Number(s):** Twin Peaks, p.326 1980 Inventory

d) **BLM District(s)/Field Office(s):** Cañon City District, San Luis Resource Area

**(2) BLM Inventory Findings on Record:**

Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics (if more than one BLM inventory area is associated with the area, list each area and answer each question individually for each inventory area):

Inventory Source: 1980 BLM Colorado Intensive Wilderness Inventory.

Area Unique Identifier	Sufficient Size? Yes/No (acres)	Naturalness? Yes/No	Outstanding Solitude? Yes/No	Outstanding Primitive & Unconfined Recreation? Yes/No	Supplemental Values? Yes/No
CO-050-140	Yes	No	No	No	No

**Form 2 - Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics**

**Area Unique Identifier:** Rio Grande (Twin Peaks CO-050-142)

**Acreage:** 10,242. Proposed Area = 10,877 acres (includes BLM lands in the Colorado Wilderness Network proposal (Colorado's Canyon Country Wilderness Proposal) beyond the original acreage of the Twin Peaks Wilderness Inventory from 1980) plus one section of State land dropped from analysis.

**(1) Is the area of sufficient size?** (If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check "Yes" and describe the exception in the space provided below)

Yes ☐ No ☒

**Description** (describe the boundaries of the area – wilderness inventory roads, property lines, etc.):

While the proposed area is well within the size requirement to consider for wilderness character, it is not located within any area that BLM recognizes as 'roadless' containing 5,000 acres or more (see overview map above). Furthermore, the proposed area actually consists of 2 parcels; a north and south parcel divided in the middle by lands that are located in the already congressionally-designated Rio Grande Natural Area. The proposed area also includes a section of State land within it not analyzed by BLM.

The Rio Grande inventory area is located on BLM lands (and one section of State land dropped from analysis) immediately west of the Rio Grande Natural Area from approximately the Lobatos bridge to the New Mexico border on the east, Conejos County Road G on the north, Conejos County Road F on the west (omitting private lands) and the New Mexico State line on the south. There are 5 active grazing leases and 3 mining claims in the Rio Grande Unit.

**(2) Does the area appear to be natural?**

Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A ☐

**Note:** If "No" is checked, the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for the remaining questions below.

**Description** (include land ownership, location, topography, vegetation, and summary of major human uses/activities):

Besides not being located in an area that BLM recognizes as roadless containing 5,000 acres or more, the original assessment of naturalness by BLM in the 1980 Intensive Wilderness Inventory for the Twin Peaks unit (southern half of proposed area) remains valid in 2012. The north half of the proposed area can be considered unexceptional and lacks suitable topography and vegetation to warrant consideration as having 'outstanding' opportunities for either solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. Substantial imprints of man are also present in the northern half of the proposed unit, including range improvements and the scars of past mining activities, as well as numerous user-created roads.

**(3) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?**

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

**Description** (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for solitude):

**(4) Does the area (or the remainder of the area if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?**

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

**Note:** If "No" is checked for both 3 and 4, the area does not have wilderness characteristics; check "NA" for question 5.

**Description** (describe the area's outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation):

**(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value)?**

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

**Description:**

#### **SUMMARY OF ANALYSIS\***

**Area Unique Identifier:** Rio Grande (Twin Peaks CO-050-142)

#### **Results of analysis:**

Of the 10,242 acres analyzed, 0 acres have wilderness characteristics.

The Twin Peaks unit (southern half of the Rio Grande citizen's proposed unit) was originally evaluated in the 1980 BLM Colorado Intensive Wilderness Inventory and was not found to possess wilderness characteristics at that time. BLM re-evaluated this area in 2012 as part of a citizen's wilderness proposal. The evaluation team and consultants concurred with BLM's original findings from the 1980 inventory (as well as similar findings for the northern half of the proposed area), which found the unit to not possess wilderness characteristics.

The 2012 re-evaluation characterizes the Rio Grande unit as a sparsely vegetated area upland from the Rio Grande river that lacks sufficient naturalness, lacks the topographic and vegetative diversity necessary to attain outstanding opportunities for either solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation, and is located outside of any area that BLM recognizes as being roadless and containing at least 5,000 acres.

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? ☐ Yes ☒ No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values? ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A

**Check one:**

☐ The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as lands with wilderness characteristics.



The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

**Prepared by (team members):**

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**(Name, Title, Date)**

**Reviewed by (District or Field Manager):**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*This form documents information that constitutes an inventory finding on wilderness characteristics. It does not represent a formal land use allocation or a final agency decision subject to administrative remedies under either 43 CFR parts 4 or 1610.5-3.**